

E-Edition

WARRIOR MEDIC

MONTHLY



An Army Reserve Medical Command Publication
DOUBLE ISSUE

November: Military Family Appreciation Month

"Just as our troops embody the courage and character that make America's military the finest in the world, their family members embody the resilience and generosity that make our communities strong."- President Barack Obama



Honoring Our Veterans :

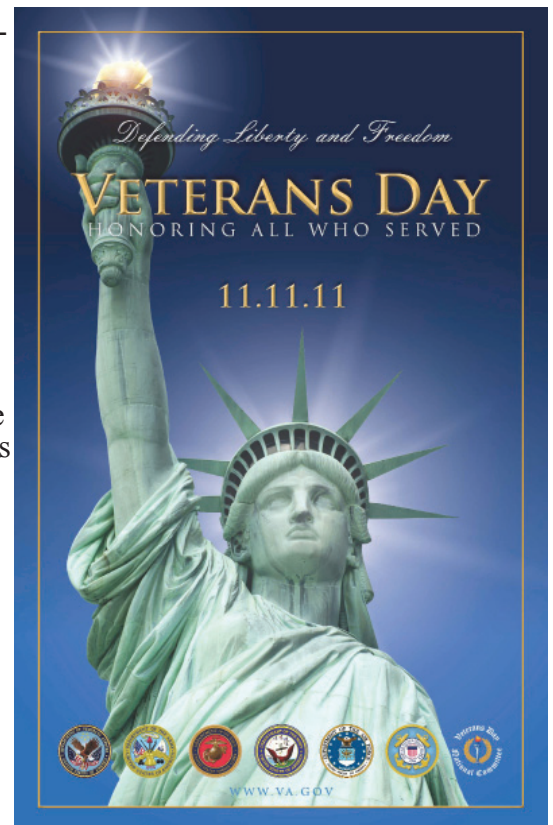
Ninety-three years ago, on "the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month," the Allies came to an agreement with Germany that ending World War I. This day was known as Armistice Day, marking not only the ceasefire but also a day of remembrance for the nearly 20 million lost.

Now called Veterans Day, November 11th commemorates generations of men and women who have served our Nation. Our service members crouched in the

muddy trenches of Europe, and struggled up the sandy beaches of Normandy. They froze through the bitter winters in the mountains of South Korea and steamed in the sodden jungles of Vietnam.

This Veterans Day, as we enter into our 11th year of persistent conflict, take a moment on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month to remember those who have sacrificed, both from the U.S. military and from our Allies, who fight side-by-side every day in Afghanistan and around the world.

Bless our young men and women who continue to join our ranks, our Veterans and all those who serve in the military.



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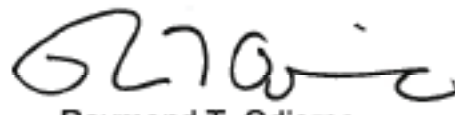
2011 Veterans Day

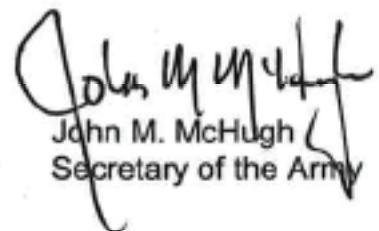
Since 1919, Americans have paused to remember the service and sacrifice of the men and women who have defended the American way of life. Our veterans have enlisted in peacetime and wartime, placing themselves in danger, serving with honor under difficult circumstances and often making the ultimate sacrifice to keep our Nation free. We owe a great debt to those who have assumed the ultimate responsibility of citizenship.

On that first Armistice Day, Americans marked the end of World War I - "the war to end all wars." Yet, as we have seen, foes of liberty continue to emerge, requiring the steadfast service and resolve of our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen. During almost a century of conflict and change, the courage and commitment of our military men and women have never faltered. It is their strength that has sustained us through these uncertain times and ensured our interests are protected at home and abroad.

We encourage you to thank those who serve today and the generations who came before them. Take the time, not just today but every day, to honor our fallen and wounded heroes, remember the missing, and recognize all who today fight to defend our country and our freedom.


Raymond F. Chandler III
Sergeant Major of the Army


Raymond T. Odierno
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff


John M. McHugh
Secretary of the Army

Veterans Day message from the Chief, Army Reserve

Each year, Veterans Day is a day we strive to ensure our service members understand how deeply we appreciate the sacrifices they have made to keep our country free. Honoring veterans on Nov. 11 not only preserves the historical significance of an event dating back to

World War I, but also places a well-deserved spotlight on small - one percent - population of patriots whose love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice preserves the freedom and rights we all enjoy.

Among these gallant warriors are the more than 200,000 Army Reserve Soldiers who have answered the call to duty.

For more than a century, Army Reserve Soldiers have fought and served both at home and abroad, defending freedom as well as providing humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. As I travel around the force, I am at once humbled and proud of the professionalism, service and sacrifices each of you willingly make on a daily basis.

Today's Army Reserve is now an enduring and indispensable part of the operational force. Our Soldiers stand alongside all Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coastguardsmen - brave men and women who preserve our country's freedom and are a true national treasure.

Without question, we are eternally indebted to the generations of service members who have - and continue to - put their lives on the line for current and future generations. Those serving today are "the greatest generation" for our time, and stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before.

As such, we must do all we can to take care of a new generation of veterans, our Soldiers and their Family members who sacrifice so much for our Nation. My staff and I will bring renewed focus on our efforts to improve the medical readiness, resilience and health of our force; to provide robust sup-

port services and programs for our Soldiers and Family members; and work with our employer partners to provide jobs, training and career development for all Soldiers, Family members and veterans.

Our goal is to develop a Continuum of Service that embraces a "Soldier for Life" and provides for alternative career paths, combining periods of Active, Reserve and Individual Ready Reserve duty to accommodate life changes/challenges, achieve personal ambitions, and maintain a commitment of service to the Nation throughout a lifetime.

The concept of "Soldier for Life" includes seeing to the needs of our Veterans as they transition back to their home communities. Though Veterans Day is largely intended to thank living veterans for their dedicated and loyal service to their country, this Friday, 11-11-11 at exactly 11 a.m., a color guard, made up of members from each military branch, will render honors to America's war dead during a heart-moving ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery.

Please join my wife Laura and me as we take this moment to pause and acknowledge the service and sacrifice of not only our deceased warriors, but the Veterans, Soldiers and Families near and far, whose quiet sacrifices have kept our nation free and safe from harm.

I believe we should all seek ways to express our collective appreciation for service and sacrifice. As such, I invite all Army Reserve personnel, whether military or civilian, to join me in observing Veterans Day - through appropriate ceremonies, community activities and personal remembrances.

I would also ask that you share your thoughts, your thanks and your reflections on our Army Reserve-Facebook page at:

www.facebook.com/USArmyReserve.

JACK C. STULTZ
Lieutenant General, US Army

Chief, Army Reserve/Commanding General, US Army Reserve Command

Veterans Day message from the Commanding General, Army Reserve Medical Command



On Veterans Day, Cathy and I join with all Americans to honor their commitment, selfless service, and personal courage. We take this opportunity to show our heartfelt appreciation to all who have served and are currently serving our great country in the military.

After the Revolutionary War, President George Washington said, "we owe these veterans a debt of gratitude, indeed a debt of honor." Since that time, generations have worn the uniform and fought both on domestic and foreign soil.

All the while, they symbolized the nobility of selfless service and sacrifice by those who answer the Call to Duty. Each of you is a vital member of the Army Reserve Medical Command family.

Our people are our most precious resources. We stand with all Americans gathering together November 11, to remember and pay tribute to our veterans and those still serving. Thank you for selflessly answering the Call to Duty, and take time remember those who have preceded us in service to our great Nation.

Be safe while you are enjoying your well-deserved holiday.

Army Strong!

RJK

Robert J. Kasulke
Major General, MC, USAR
Commanding

Medics First - Warriors Always

New TRICARE Prime Enrollees Pay Adjusted Annual Fees

By DOD News



In accordance with changes authorized in February 2011, the Department of Defense announced today military retirees enrolling in TRICARE® Prime after

Oct. 1, 2011, will begin paying an additional \$2.50 per month for individual members and \$5 per month for members and family. This change does not affect any retiree currently enrolled and only affects future enrollees. Active duty service members will continue to receive health care with no out of pocket costs. We are committed to offering the best possible health care system for our entire military family," said Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs Dr. Jonathan Woodson. "This modest annual fee increase allows us to responsibly manage our costs in line with other secretary of defense initiatives announced earlier this year

The change was authorized by Secretary of Defense Robert Gates in February 2011 as part of his effort to responsibly manage military healthcare costs. Since 1995, the secretary of defense has been permitted by law to set a premium, deductible, copayment, or other charge for health care, including enrollment fees. The TRICARE benefit is among the nation's most affordable health care plans. All service members, military retirees and their eligible family members have TRICARE benefits regardless of prior health conditions.

The fiscal 2012 fee change amounts to a slightly higher annual fee of \$260 for members and \$520 for members and family. Annual fees for retirees enrolled in TRICARE Prime prior to Oct. 1, 2011, will remain at \$230 and \$460 until Oct. 1, 2012. Retirees in TRICARE Prime have a catastrophic cap of

\$3,000 and there are no

changes to low TRICARE Prime co-pays.

Survivors of active duty deceased sponsors and medically retired services members and their dependents will be exempt from the increase, effective from the time they renew their enrollment or first enroll in Prime.

"The department is committed to maintaining the same unique health care protection we have always offered our warriors, both current and retired," said Woodson. "To sustain our military health system we are working hard to streamline, become more efficient, and achieve cost savings. Together we can manage our costs responsibly and continue to provide care for our service members, retirees and their families."

Information about TRICARE Prime enrollment fees can be found at <http://www.tricare.mil/costs>.

Pentagon: Time between tours risks mental health

By Gregg Zoroya, USA TODAY

Updated 2011-10-06



WASHINGTON--The longer troops are at home between combat tours to Iraq or Afghanistan, the greater chance they have of developing mental health problems from exposure to combat, according to a massive Pentagon study released today.

The research covers the records of nearly 1.4 million U.S. troops serving in combat from October 2001 to December 2010. Researchers found the rate of post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety and depression increasing among troops on second or third deployments, before declining as tours continued.

In addition, multiple deployments were linked with higher rates of mental health problems among health care workers in the battle zone than other troops deployed

Panetta Urges Europe To Spend More On NATO Or Risk A Hollowed-Out Alliance

By Steven Erlanger



BRUSSELS -- October 6, 2011, with the Pentagon facing severe budget cuts, Secretary of Defense Leon E. Panetta asked NATO's European members on Wednesday to heed the lessons of the Libya war and cooperate on much-needed defense spending in order "not to hollow out this alliance."

Mr. Panetta, in his first European speech as defense secretary, handed out praise as well as criticism, speaking with care in the aftermath of a fiercely phrased warning in June by his predecessor, Robert M. Gates, that NATO risked irrelevance because of its failures to invest in defense.

Mr. Gates said that NATO had become a two-tiered alliance divided between those who bore the burden of defense spending and those along for a free ride. He warned of "a dim if not dismal future" for the alliance unless its European members increased their participation, and he said that Washington would not forever pay for European security when the Europeans could do that for themselves.

Mr. Panetta took a softer approach, balancing concerns about shortages of equipment and personnel with praise for the NATO's accomplishments in Libya and Afghanistan.

The fighting in Libya showed, he said, how quickly and decisively NATO could go to war and proved the value of sharing burdens, with France and Britain taking the lead instead of the United States.

But the Libyan conflict, he said, also showed that American capabilities and supplies of ammunition were vital, and it illustrated "growing gaps that must be addressed."

He warned of "legitimate questions about whether, if present trends continue, NATO will

The fighting in Libya showed, he said, how quickly and decisively NATO could go to war and proved the value of sharing burdens, with France and Britain taking the lead instead of the United States.

But the Libyan conflict, he said, also showed that American capabilities and supplies of ammunition were vital, and it illustrated “growing gaps that must be addressed.”

He warned of “legitimate questions about whether, if present trends continue, NATO will again be able to sustain the kind of operations that we have seen in Libya and Afghanistan without the United States taking on even more of the burden.”

NATO had too few targeting specialists to interpret intelligence and guide aircraft, so Americans filled in, he said.

“But nowhere were the gaps more obvious than in critical enabling capabilities — refueling tankers, the provision of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance platforms such as Global Hawk and Predator drones.” Without those American assets, “the Libya operation would have had a very difficult time getting off the ground or being sustained,” he said.

Mr. Panetta, speaking at Carnegie Europe, the Brussels branch of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, said that the Pentagon was facing at least \$450 billion in budget cuts over the next 10 years, and that he was committed to ensuring that the American military did not once again cut muscle while saving money. Europeans should avoid the same historical error, he said, and not assume that Washington will always be able to compensate for their shortcomings.

“After World War I, after World War II, after Korea, after Vietnam, after the fall of the Iron Curtain, we made the mistake of hollowing out our forces, and that cannot happen again,” Mr. Panetta said.

“Similarly, NATO nations need

to send a strong signal of our determination not to hollow out this alliance,” he said. “We need to use this moment to make the case for the need to invest in this alliance to ensure it remains relevant to the security challenges of the future.”

He urged Europeans to use the success in Libya to make the case to their own publics for the need to spend more on defense, and to spend it more wisely, on cooperative projects.

“With the fall of the Qaddafi regime, our nations saw an example of why NATO matters and why NATO remains indispensable in confronting the security challenges of today,” he said. “We need to use this moment to make the case for the need to invest in this alliance, to ensure it remains relevant to the security challenges of the future.”

By some measures, he said, European defense spending had dropped 2 percent a year for the last decade while Europeans were engaged in Kosovo, Libya and Afghanistan, meaning that the savings had come from budgets for modernization. At the least, he said, NATO members must coordinate spending cuts so that their allies are not surprised.

“We are at a critical moment for our defense partnership,” he warned. “While these warnings have been acknowledged, growing fiscal pressures on both sides of the Atlantic, I fear, have eroded the political will to do something about them.”

After a visit to the Middle East, Mr. Panetta came to Brussels for his first NATO defense ministers meeting, which will address how to conclude the operation in Libya and how to better train Afghan forces to take over security as allied combat forces withdraw through 2014.

The NATO ministers also will discuss Kosovo, where clashes continue between Kosovar Albanians and Serbs, and the antipiracy patrols off Somalia, now in their third year.

U.S. Base Tests Dueling Interests In S. Korea Naval facility pits security vs. trade

By Andrew Salmon, Special to The Washington Times



SEOUL -- October 6, 2011, A heated dispute about the construction of a naval base has brought into sharp focus South Korea's conflicted position between

No. 1 security partner the United States and No. 1 trade partner China.

Construction of a 586,000-square-yard base on Jeju Island, a tourist destination 56 miles off South Korea's southeast coast, started in 2006. But the project has been halted seven times because of ongoing protests.

Demonstrators say that the base is part of a clandestine anti-China strategy in Washington, rather than a strategic bulwark for South Korea, and that it will pollute the island's environment.

In addition, Jeju's Provincial Council last month announced the result of an administrative investigation that uncovered irregularities in base-planning procedures.

On Wednesday, South Korea's embattled navy presented its side of the story, saying the base will not harbor U.S. warships.

“Port visits by U.S. Navy ships will only be temporary; they will not be permanently stationed on Jeju,” Rear Adm. Koo Ok-hyoe said at a news conference at Seoul's Ministry of National Defense. “[The base] is being built to protect Korean maritime territory, just as any sovereign nation does.”

Adm. Koo said the base, scheduled to open in 2014, is for dual civilian-military use. In the latter role, it would help project power and protect trade-dependent South Korea's sea lanes while allowing its navy to shift assets between the peninsula's east and west coasts in the event of North Korean incursions.

The admiral also noted that the base would be too small to accom-

moderate U.S. aircraft carriers, and reiterated that South Korea has no intention of taking part in a Japan-U.S. missile-defense system. Critics remain unconvinced.

According to the navy, 56 percent of nearby villagers favor the base for its economic benefits. But local opponents have been joined by protesters and nongovernmental organizations from the mainland, and several high-profile activists have been arrested during demonstrations.

"A naval base on Jeju is not essential to protect South Korea, but may be used as a U.S. naval base instead of Okinawa," said Kim Sung-soo, a Seoul-based Quaker, referring to a giant U.S. Marine base that is being downsized. "That would damage the security of East Asia, as tension in the region would rise between China and the USA."

However, Adm. Koo said Beijing has not protested U.S. naval visits to the existing Pyeongtaek Naval Base on South Korea's western, China-facing coast.

The uproar about the base's strategic ramifications reflects a wider debate in South Korean society.

In 1950, Beijing intervened in the Korean War, rescuing a tottering North Korea. To this day, it remains Pyongyang's closest ally.

Yet, as its economy has surged, China has become South Korea's top trade partner, raising questions about how long Seoul can juggle strategic ties with Washington and economic ties with Beijing.

Security experts insist that South Korea must maintain this balance. "Moving toward China economically and culturally is fine, but moving toward China strategically means being subservient," said Kim Byung-ki of Korea University's Security Policy Forum. "The only reason we have an independent country is the security alliance with the U.S."

Song Young-soon, a congresswoman with the right-wing Liberty Forward Party, agreed, noting the economic benefits of Japan's secu-

rity relationship with the U.S.

"After the collapse of the USSR, Japan pondered if they should reinforce cooperation with the U.S. or reinforce their own forces," she said. "They decided to make a much stronger security alliance with U.S., so they spend less on their own military and the U.S. puts them under their strategic umbrella." Korea will have to go through a similar process, Ms. Song added.

Still, South Korea's left maintains an undercurrent of anti-Americanism, with Jeju, in particular, providing grist for their umbrage. Before the outbreak of the Korean War, South Korean forces, bolstered by U.S. military advisers, ruthlessly put down a left-wing uprising on the picturesque island. An estimated 30,000 islanders were killed, and some Jeju historians double that number.

In recognition of its grim history, Jeju officially has been dubbed "the Island of Peace," further fueling protests by demonstrators arguing that a naval base is inappropriate.

And Jeju islanders have significant reasons for prioritizing relations with their Yellow Sea neighbor, as they already are undergoing a kind of Chinese invasion.

According to statistics from the Jeju Tourism Association in September, the number of Chinese tourists stood at 325,393 in the first eight months of the year, up 17.1 percent from the same period last year.

What's more, a survey by China's Global Times ranks Jeju with Hawaii and the Maldives as the top three most-popular islands for Chinese tourists.

Currently, a group of 1,400 Chinese travel agents are touring the island at the invitation of local authorities, who offer visa-free travel to Chinese tourists. The South Korean navy said Jeju's tourism offerings will be strengthened, not diminished, by the new base.

The port's civilian facilities

will be able to accommodate ocean liners of up to 150,000 tons, compared with the island's current wharves, which can handle vessels of up to 80,000 tons.

The navy also was keen to state that it has undertaken environmental surveys around the base site, including measures of endangered crabs and toads.

More Tours, More Troubles For Troops

By USA Today



WASHINGTON--October 6, 2011, The longer servicemembers are at home between combat tours to Iraq or Afghanistan, the greater chance they have of developing mental health problems from exposure to combat, a Pentagon study indicates.

The study examined records for nearly 1.4 million U.S. troops serving in combat from October 2001 to December 2010.

Researchers found the rate of post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety and depression increasing among troops on second or third deployments, before declining as tours continued.

In addition, multiple deployments were linked with higher rates of mental health problems among health care workers in battle zones than among other deployed troops.

IED attacks increase outside of two wars

By Tom Vanden Brook USA Today News



AFGHANISTAN--Oct. 19, 2011, Attacks with home-made bombs are growing worldwide and pose an increasing threat to the

United States, said the head of the Pentagon agency charged with

combating makeshift bombs.

Attacks with improvised explosive devices outside Afghanistan and Iraq have more than doubled in the last three years, according to Pentagon data. From January to September, there were an average of 608 attacks per month in 99 countries. During that time, there were 367 homemade bomb attacks in the United States.

"It's cheap, effective and readily available," said Army Lt. Gen. Michael Barbero, director of the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization.

"If we think it's going to go away after Iraq and Afghanistan, we're dreaming," he said. "It's going to confront us operationally for decades and domestically. We need to come to grips with that. It's an enduring threat."

Their popularity among criminals, narcotics traffickers and terrorists continues to grow, aided by the spread of online of bomb-making technology, Barbero said. Tactics used against U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan have migrated to places such as Somalia, he said. African peacekeepers recently have been targeted with sophisticated armor-piercing IEDs.

Another growing concern is the use of readily available fertilizer as the key component for homemade explosives.

Barbero estimated that 80% of improvised explosives in Afghanistan are made with fertilizer produced in neighboring Pakistan. Those bombs cause 90% of U.S. casualties there.

Even as their popularity grows elsewhere, improvised explosive attacks have been at record-high levels in Afghanistan. In September, the bombs killed 18 U.S. troops and wounded 420 others, according to the Pentagon data.

"We're playing defense unless we get something to reduce the free flow" of fertilizer from Pakistan, Barbero said.

Fielding counter-IED equipment faster, collecting intelligence on bomb-making groups and enlisting other government agencies to

combat the threat will be necessary to limit attacks, Barbero said.

Already, the military has spent \$45 billion on Mine Resistant Ambush Protected armored trucks to protect troops from IEDs.

The vehicles have been credited with saving thousands of lives, according to the Pentagon. Since they 2006, the anti-IED task force has spent an additional \$17 billion.

IED attacks likely will increase as are copied by groups other than al-Qaeda or insurgents in Afghanistan, said Peter Singer, director of the 21st Century Defense Initiative at the Brookings Institution.

In the future the bombs will probably be encountered in urban areas, not the dirt roads and paths of Afghanistan where billions have been spent to counter them, Singer said.

"We have to figure out a way to alter the investment ratio," he said. "It's unsustainable to keep throwing billions of dollars to fight a technology that costs the other side tens of dollars."



Gaddafi killed in hometown, Libya eyes future

By The Reuters



LIBYA--October 20, 2011, Muammar Gaddafi was killed after being captured by the Libyan fighters he once scorned as "rats," cornered and shot in the head after they overrun his last bastion of resistance in his hometown of Sirte.

His body, bloodied, half naked, Gaddafi's trademark long curls hanging limp around a rarely seen bald spot, was delivered, a prize of war, to Misrata, the city west of Sirte whose siege and months of suffering at the hands of Gaddafi's artillery and sniper made it a symbol of the rebel cause.

A quick and secret burial was due later on Friday. "It's time to start a new Libya, a united Libya," Prime Minister Mahmoud Jibril declared. "One people, one future." A formal announcement of Libya's liberation, which will set the clock ticking on a timeline to elections, would be made on Saturday, Libyan officials said.

Two months after Western-backed rebels ended 42 years of eccentric one-man rule by capturing the capital Tripoli, his death ended a nervous hiatus for the new interim government.

U.S. President Barack Obama, in a veiled dig at the Syrian and other leaders resisting the democrats of the Arab Spring, declared "the rule of an iron fist inevitably comes to an end." But Gaddafi's death is a setback to campaigners seeking the full truth about the 1988 bombing over Lockerbie in Scotland of Pan Am flight 103 which claimed 270 lives, mainly Americans, and for which one of Gaddafi's agents was convicted. Jim Swire, the father of one of the Lockerbie victims, said:

"There is much still to be resolved and we may now have lost an opportunity for getting nearer the truth." "That's for Lockerbie," said the front-page headline in The Sun, Britain's best selling daily newspaper. Confusion over Gaddafi's death was a reminder of the challenge for Libyans to now summon order out of the armed chaos that is the legacy of eight months of grinding conflict.

The killing or capture of senior aides, including possibly two sons, as an armored convoy braved NATO air strikes in a desperate bid to break out of Sirte, may ease fears of diehards regrouping elsewhere - though cellphone video, apparently of Gaddafi alive and being beaten, may inflame his sympathizers.

As news of Gaddafi's demise spread, people poured into the streets in jubilation. Joyous fighters fired their weapons in the air, shouting "Allahu Akbar."

Others wrote graffiti on the

parapets of the highway outside Sirte. One said simply: "Gaddafi was captured here." Jibril, reading what he said was a post-mortem report, said Gaddafi was hauled unresisting from a "sewage pipe." He was then shot in the arm and put in a truck which was "caught in crossfire" as it ferried the 69-year-old to hospital.

"He was hit by a bullet in the head," Jibril said, adding it was unclear which side had fired the fatal shot. French President Nicolas Sarkozy, who spearheaded a Franco-British move in NATO to back the revolt against Gaddafi hailed a turn of events that few had expected so soon, since there had been little evidence that Gaddafi himself was in Sirte.

But he also alluded to fears that, without the glue of hatred for Gaddafi, the new Libya could descend, like Saddam Hussein's Iraq, into bloody factionalism: "The liberation of Sirte must signal ... the start of a process ... to establish a democratic system in which all groups in the country have their place and where fundamental freedoms are guaranteed," he said.

NATO, keen to portray the victory as that of the Libyans themselves, said it would wind down its military mission. "KEEP HIM ALIVE"

The circumstances of the death of Gaddafi, who had vowed to go down fighting, remained obscure. Jerky video showed a man with Gaddafi's distinctive long, curly hair, bloodied and staggering under blows from armed men, apparently NTC fighters.

The brief footage showed him being hauled by his hair from the hood of a truck. To the shouts of someone saying "Keep him alive," he disappears from view and gunshots are heard.

"While he was being taken away, they beat him and then they killed him," a senior source in the NTC told Reuters before Jibril spoke of crossfire. "He might have been resisting."

Officials said Gaddafi's son

Mo'tassim, also seen bleeding but alive in a video, had also died. Another son, heir-apparent Saif al-Islam, was variously reported to be surrounded, captured or killed as conflicting accounts of the day's events crackled around networks of NTC fighters rejoicing in Sirte.

In Benghazi, where in February Gaddafi disdainfully said he would hunt down the "rats" who had emulated their Tunisian and Egyptian neighbors by rising up against an unloved autocrat, thousands took to the streets, loosing off weapons and dancing under the old tricolor flag revived by Gaddafi's opponents.

Mansour el Ferjani, 49, a Benghazi bank clerk and father of five posed his 9-year-old son for a photograph holding a Kalashnikov rifle: "Don't think I will give this gun to my son," he said. "Now that the war is over we must give up our weapons and the children must go to school."

Accounts were hazy of his final hours, as befitted a man who retained an aura of mystery in the desert down the decades as he first tormented "colonial" Western powers by sponsoring militant bomb-makers from the IRA to the PLO and then embraced the likes of Tony Blair and Silvio Berlusconi in return for investment in Libya's extensive oil and gas fields.

There was no shortage of fighters willing to claim they saw Gaddafi, who long vowed to die in battle, cringing below ground, like Saddam eight years ago, and pleading for his life.

One description, pieced together from various sources, suggests Gaddafi tried to break out of his final redoubt at dawn in a convoy of vehicles after weeks of dogged resistance.

However, he was stopped by a French air strike and captured, possibly some hours later, after gun battles with NTC fighters who found him hiding in a drainage culvert.

NATO said its warplanes fired on a convoy near Sirte about 8:30 a.m. (2:30 a.m. ET), striking two

military vehicles in the group, but could not confirm that Gaddafi had been a passenger. France later said its jets had halted the convoy.

Dempsey: New Energy Technologies Already Helping DOD

By Cheryl Pellerin

American Forces Press Service



WASHINGTON-- Oct. 18, 2011, Saving energy saves lives, and new technologies championed by Defense Department officials already are making a difference at the Pentagon and on the battlefield, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said here today.

Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey spoke at an energy security event held at the Pentagon to recognize October as National Energy Awareness Month.

"Fundamentally, we know that saving energy saves lives," Dempsey said. "In Afghanistan fewer supply convoys will directly relate to fewer casualties, and it's not just about defensive operations."

Pentagon officials are putting energy efficiency and new technologies to work for the entire Defense Department. These improvements include solar panels, microgrid systems and high-capacity batteries, the chairman said.

"We've designed more fuel-efficient ground combat vehicles, installed hybrid systems on some naval ships and invested in fuel cells to provide backup power to military installations. And I know the Army's running a pilot on three installations right now to get at a net-zero baseline for energy consumption," Dempsey said.

"I'll do everything I can as chairman," he added, "to support these innovations and to get the right emerging technologies into our troops' hands as soon as possible."

This critical job is best done not

by individual services, but in a joint effort, Dempsey added, “and I’m counting on the people in this room to get it done.”

The chairman said he is committed to goals set forth in the department’s first Operational Energy Strategy, released June 14 to promote a more strategic use of energy to reduce warfighter risks, save money for taxpayers and help shift more resources to other defense priorities.

The goals “include reducing energy demand at all levels of our forces while increasing the resilience and operational effectiveness of our equipment and our soldiers,” Dempsey said.

Improving the department’s energy security directly translates to improving national security, he added.

“It will be essential to keeping our military the most effective -- the finest -- fighting force in the world. And it is inherent to our responsibilities as good stewards of our nation’s resources,” the chairman said.

“Without improving our energy security, we are not merely standing still as a military or as a nation, we are falling behind,” Dempsey added.

The department’s energy culture has changed dramatically since he was a young Army armor officer, the chairman said.

“Today, Americans are more energy-conscious in our homes and at work, and so too are we in our military,” Dempsey said. “But we can and must do even better – particularly in pushing progress out to the field, to the flightline and into the fleet.”

Today’s warfighters require more energy than at any time in the past, he said, and that requirement is not likely to decline.

During World War II, supporting one soldier on the battlefield took a gallon of fuel per day. Today, Dempsey said, “we use over 22 gallons per day per soldier, and we are also more expeditionary than ever.” Energy spans every activity of the Defense Department, he said.

“In the air, jet fuel equates to on-station and loiter time. At sea, marine fuel consumption rates impact operating and transit speeds,” the chairman said. On the ground, he added, energy requirements often drive how long soldiers can stay out on patrol and how many resupply convoys are put at risk to support them.

U.S. Troops to Leave Iraq by Year’s End, Obama Says

By DOD News



WASHINGTON — October 21, 2011, President Obama announced on Friday that the last American soldier would leave Iraq by the end of this year, drawing to a close a divisive eight-year war that cost the lives of more than 4,400 troops, defined the presidency of George W. Bush, and helped ignite his own political rise.

The decision leaves only a vestigial presence of Marine embassy guards and liaison officers staying on where more than a million troops, in all, have served.

The president’s statement, coming a day after a NATO air campaign hastened the death of Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi in Libya, was laden with symbolism, marking the ebb tide of a decade of American military engagement that began after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. It also capped a remarkable period of foreign-policy accomplishments for a president who is hindered by a poor economy at home.

For Mr. Obama, whose rise to the White House was based partly on his opposition to the Iraq war but who as president ordered a troop buildup in Afghanistan and intensified drone strikes against militants in the region, the announcement fulfills a campaign promise.

Its timing, after Colonel Qaddafi’s death and the commando raid that killed Osama bin Laden, and just as the administration was

taking its toughest stance yet on Pakistan’s reluctance to root out militants along its border with Afghanistan, may help insulate him from Republican charges that he is weak on national security.

“Today, I can report that, as promised, the rest of our troops in Iraq will come home by the end of the year,” the president said in a midday appearance at the White House. Anticipating what he called “another season of homecomings,” he declared, “Our troops will definitely be home for the holidays.”

The complete withdrawal, which his political critics decried and his military team had worked hard to avert, was propelled by an irreconcilable dispute between the United States and Iraq over the legal immunity of a small force of military trainers that the Pentagon had planned to leave in the country. Though the president left open the possibility that trainers might still advise Iraqi troops, military officials said the chance of putting any significant American force there was slim.

Mitt Romney, the Republican presidential candidate, among others, scorned Mr. Obama for putting the sacrifices of American troops at risk and questioned whether the president had been motivated by “naked political calculation or simply sheer ineptitude in negotiations with the Iraqi government.”

Mr. Obama gave word of the decision to Prime Minister Nuri Kamal al-Maliki, who faces rough political crosswinds of his own over the timing of the departure, in a video conference call. Mr. Obama’s aides described the call as “poignant,” with the Iraqi leader expressing thanks for the sacrifices of American soldiers.

As of Jan. 1, 2012, Mr. Obama said, the two countries will begin “a normal relationship between sovereign nations, an equal partnership based on mutual interest and mutual respect.”

The agreement to leave Iraq this year dates from late 2008, when Mr. Bush, before leaving office, made

a farewell visit to Baghdad that was disrupted when an Iraqi journalist hurled his shoes at him and denounced him as a “dog.”

American military officials had wanted a “residual” force of as many as tens of thousands of soldiers to remain past 2011 as an insurance policy against future violence.

Those numbers were scaled back, but the expectation was that 3,000 to 5,000 American troops would remain. Some top American military officials were dismayed by the decision, saying Mr. Obama was putting the best face on a breakdown in tortured negotiations with the Iraqis.

Pentagon lawyers insisted that the Iraqi Parliament grant soldiers immunity from legal prosecution. In recent weeks, American negotiators in Baghdad concluded that it would be impossible to obtain that protection, essentially scuttling any chance of a substantial troop presence there next year.

Mr. Obama and Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta kept the door open to further talks on trainers. While civilian and military officials characterized the withdrawal as a clean break, negotiations could always resume.

“As I told Prime Minister Maliki, we will continue discussions on how we might help Iraq train and equip its forces,” Mr. Obama said. “After all, there will be some difficult days ahead for Iraq, and the United States will continue to have an interest in an Iraq that is stable, secure and self-reliant.”

At the Pentagon, however, senior officials said that without a change in the tenor of Iraqi domestic politics, it was unlikely that any enduring American military presence could be negotiated with the Iraqi government.

Instead, these officials said, the two countries might look to create what one Pentagon official called “a smaller footprint and more flexible relationship.” That might include organizing joint exercises, inviting Iraqi officers to American military

schools and offering to train Iraqis in other Middle Eastern nations where the United States has a presence.

“We’re prepared to meet their training needs, we’re prepared to engage in exercises with them, we’re prepared to provide guidance and training with regard to their pilots,” Mr. Panetta told reporters traveling with him to Indonesia.

The United States will still keep about 160 military personnel to guard its embassy in Baghdad and manage the continuing military relationship. There will also be 4,000 to 5,000 private State Department security contractors, as well as a significant C.I.A. presence. In Afghanistan, about 95,000 American troops remain.

“We fought to give Iraqis a choice,” said a frustrated senior officer who was not authorized to speak publicly about the White House’s decision. Another officer said, “Bottom line, it is a failure of the Iraqi government.”

American officials continued to express concern about gaps in Iraq’s security capabilities to withstand what they view as continuing threats of sectarian violence and Iran’s malign influence. But political pressure in Iraq to end the American occupation gradually came to dominate military imperatives.

“Iraq is a highly nationalistic country, and we were not able to dislodge the view that they should not have foreign troops on their soil,” said Christopher R. Hill, a former American ambassador to Iraq who is now dean of the Josef Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver.

Mr. Obama’s announcement drew mixed reactions in Washington, with Democrats generally approving while Republicans voiced fears that security gains in Iraq could be reversed without an American presence.

“While I’m concerned that a full withdrawal could jeopardize those gains,” Speaker John A. Boehner said in a statement, “I’m hope-

ful that both countries will work together to guarantee that a free and democratic Iraq remains a strong and stable partner for the United States in the Middle East.”

News of the American withdrawal was met with scattered celebrations in Iraq. In Sadr City, the Shiite district in Baghdad that is a bastion of anti-American sentiment, roughly 1,000 people celebrated under the picture of young Shiite men who had been killed by American troops.

“The United States here was just like Saddam Hussein,” said Muslim Mohammed, 42, a government employee. “We never thought we’d get rid of Saddam, and we thought his sons would just take over. We thought the Americans would never leave and they would just create excuses to stay longer and longer.”

Mr. Obama, however, has stuck to his plans to end the combat mission and withdraw all troops, in part because he wants to channel energy to reviving the economy. “After a decade of war,” he declared, “the nation that we need to build — and the nation that we will build — is our own.”

Thom Shanker and Eric Schmitt contributed reporting from Washington, Michael S. Schmidt from Baghdad, and Elisabeth Bumiller en route to Indonesia

Top 10 Reasons I Appreciate Military Families

By Elaine Sanchez



WASHINGTON--Nov. 1, 2011, 10. Their sense of humor. I think this is a prerequisite for military families — kind of an “If you don’t laugh, you cry,” complex, particularly when it comes to deployments.

For instance, my friend Vivian wrote a blog post for Family Mat-

ters last year about a piece of pizza. Her Navy husband had just deployed, and the pizza was the only remnant of the family's last meal together before he left.

"So there it sits, mocking me while growing another skin in our fridge," she wrote of that pizza, "a smelly, and somewhat odd, reminder that the man of the house, an integral piece of our family, is gone again." Funny ... and sad.

9. They're passionate — about everything. They give their all, whether it's volunteering in their communities, with their family readiness groups or in their kids' schools. What's even more impressive is they do so while balancing careers, home life, kids and education.

8. They're strong, even under extraordinary circumstances. Due to state-of-the-art technology and medicine, the survivability of this war is unmatched by any other, and service members are returning home alive despite devastating injuries. And when they do, their families are there to embrace them. In some cases, they give up homes and careers to care for their military loved one full-time. That's strength.

7. They're always willing to lend each other a hand. I visited an Army post about a year ago to interview military kids and met a teenager whose parents were both deployed in Iraq. He and his two siblings were staying with his parents' friends, who had three kids of their own. I was amazed by the couple's selflessness at the time, but since have heard of so many other examples that I've realized this caring and support is simply another aspect of the military family culture.

6. They're resilient. A decade of war, frequent deployments,

moves, career and school changes. Need I say more?

5. Military spouses. From the moment they say "I do" to a military member, they begin a life of service every bit as valuable as their spouse's. They give up careers to follow their military loved one around the world, hold down the home front during deployments, and offer their unfailing love and support. It's a lot to ask of anyone, and they voluntarily shoulder this burden.

4. Military kids. They're just amazing. They change schools, on average, six to eight times over the course of their parent's military career. They deal with long separations from loved ones — who aren't headed out for a business trip, but for a year in a combat zone. Despite everything that's thrown at them, they are strong, brave and adaptable. I met a high school senior a while back who told me he was OK with his dad missing his graduation, prom and a host of other events. He knew the reason why — his dad's desire to serve his nation — and that was enough.

3. Other family members. People often forget about the extended family members who serve too. The grandparents who open their homes to grandkids during deployments, the sisters and brothers who call and send care packages, a host of uncles, aunts and cousins offering their unwavering support. I spoke to a woman who took in her two grandchildren during her Air Force daughter's deployment. She was nervous at first — it had been years since kids lived in her home full-time — but then gained a new bond with her grandchildren. And she'd do it again in a heartbeat, she told me.

2. Their service and sacri-

fice. They, too, serve this nation. They weather holidays, birthdays and major milestones without their military loved one. In the worst cases, they must deal with their loved one's ultimate sacrifice. First Lady Michelle Obama expressed her gratitude for military families at an event to honor military kids last spring: "When we talk about service to our country, when we talk about all that sacrifice for a cause, when we talk about patriotism and courage and resilience, we're not just talking about our troops and our veterans," Obama said, "we're talking about our military families, as well."

1. They stand behind their service member. I know a military mom whose children — all six — had either joined the military or were about to. All had joined while the nation is at war. While she was concerned, rather than deter them from their choice, she chose to support them. She told me it was an easy decision. "I always tell [my children], 'This is your time in history. You are where the action is and you're fighting for us, for your country and for the lifestyle we all enjoy.'" I hope everyone takes a moment to thank a military family this month, and year-round. Or, even better, offer to give them a hand, whether it's with child care, cooking a meal or helping to mow a lawn. As the first lady often says at her Joining Forces events, "Everyone can do something."

TV Special to Celebrate Veterans, Military Families

By Elaine Sanchez
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Nov. 2, 2011 – A Veterans Day TV special will cel-

celebrate service members and veterans and spotlight the issues they face as they leave the military and re-enter their communities and the workforce.

“Extreme Makeover: Home Edition ‘Rise and Honor’ A Veterans Day Special” will air Nov. 11 at 8 p.m. EST on ABC. The show teamed up with the Entertainment Industry Foundation, Hollywood’s leading charity, to present the one-hour special, a news release said.

The reality show undertakes massive home renovations for families in need with the help of a builder and a host of volunteers. This season’s premiere featured Barbara Marshall, a 15-year Navy veteran who has devoted her life to helping homeless female veterans.

“In 200 episodes, we’ve seen thousands of armed forces volunteers to help us rebuild homes and lives,” said Brady Connell, the show’s executive producer. “Now we’re thrilled to be able to honor all veterans with this television special.”

The special will feature host Ty Pennington as he revisits past episodes with some of the show’s most memorable military stories. The “Extreme Makeover” crew also will visit with some of the families featured in those episodes to find out how they’ve been faring since their home makeover and how they’re continuing to aid their fellow veterans.

Throughout the show, celebrities will spotlight the issues veterans face after service, and the strengths and skills they bring to the workforce and their communities, the release said. Celebrities include Whoopi Goldberg, Jewel, George Lopez, J.R. Martinez, Rachael Ray, Sherri Shepherd, Robin Williams

and Major League Baseball players Daniel Murphy of the Mets, Shane Victorino of the Phillies and Clay Buchholz of the Red Sox.

Additionally, the Entertainment Industry Foundation will launch its “Rise and Honor” program during the special. The program raises funds to support reintegration services for veterans and their families, benefiting organizations such as the Fisher House Foundation, Hire Heroes USA, Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund, USO, Volunteers of America and Welcome Back Veterans.

These organizations offer veterans and their families services and support such as housing, job placement, health care, rehabilitation and mental health treatment.

“We’ve highlighted the difficult struggles our veterans often face when returning home,” George Verschoor, executive producer, said. “We are so proud to take this a step further with a moving tribute to our nation’s heroes, while inspiring Americans to give back to those who’ve given our country so much.”

The special will culminate with an event featuring an audience of active-duty service members and veterans, along with a live musical performance by Jewel, who also will co-host the special.

In the news release, Labor Secretary Hilda Solis cited the importance of efforts such as this one that shine a light on veterans’ issues as they transition from military to civilian life.

“All across the country, we have talented and dedicated veterans who have been unemployed for far too long,” she said. “These service men and women are right here and ready to get back to work. They just need

a little help from all of us to find a good job at a fair wage and successfully transition from military to civilian life.

“We applaud ABC and the Entertainment Industry Foundation for broadcasting this special show to raise awareness of the needs of our returning veterans and their families,” she added.

Holly Petraeus: Troops, Families Deserve Financial Protection

By Elaine Sanchez

American Forces Press Service



WASHINGTON, Nov. 3, 2011 – Home ownership, military education benefits, car loans, spouse employment and indebtedness top the list of financial issues confronting service members and their families, a military finance expert said today.

In written testimony to the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee, Holly Petraeus elaborated on military families’ most pressing financial issues and the steps her office is taking to better protect them.

Petraeus is the assistant director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau’s Office of Servicemember Affairs, a government office dedicated to protecting service members and their families from financial predators and pitfalls.

She said she gained insight into these issues during extensive travels to military installations across the country, where she spoke to troops, families and military financial experts to identify their top concerns.

These visits only confirmed what she’d already seen firsthand as

a military family member, military mom and a 37-year Army wife, she said. Her husband is CIA Director David H. Petraeus, a retired Army general.

"In my role as a military family member, I have seen the problems that can arise for our service members who may experience 'too much month and not enough money,'" she wrote. "I have also seen firsthand the devastating impact financial scams and predatory lending can have on service members and their families.

Unfortunately, there are still too many young troops learning about wise spending through hard experience and years of paying off expensive debt."

Petraeus cited home ownership as one of top concerns for troops and their families due, in part, to what she called the nation's "housing meltdown." Faced with declining home values, people may find themselves owing more than their house is worth.

They then find themselves in a difficult situation when notified of a pending military move, Petraeus said.

"Often, they can't sell their home for enough to pay off the mortgage. They can't rent it out for enough to cover their mortgage payments. They're told they can't get a loan modification or short sale because they're not yet delinquent, and they can't refinance for a good rate, because it will no longer be considered their principal residence once they leave," she explained.

In some cases, service members who may have just returned from a deployment away from their families are choosing to proceed to the new duty station alone. But this separation, Petraeus said, is due not to mission demands, but rather to

financial necessity.

Petraeus cited progress being made to better assist military families with housing concerns. The Treasury Department, she explained, has issued new guidance for its Home Affordable Foreclosure Alternatives program to make it more accessible to service members with orders to move.

Government-sponsored enterprises such as Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac also are looking at adjusting their guidance, she added.

Another issue that's affecting service members and their spouses is military education benefits and for-profit colleges, Petraeus noted. For-profit colleges must obtain at least 10 percent of their revenue from sources other than Title IV education funds administered by the Education Department, she explained, and military education money counts toward that requirement.

"This has led to some cases of very aggressive marketing by for-profits schools to military personnel and their families," Petraeus said. "And these schools often market not only the educational programs themselves, but also expensive private student loans."

A key focus for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau is to educate students about these loans, Petraeus noted, and to ensure they'll be able to repay them. Car loans are another pervasive issue for the military, she said. "Military personnel love their wheels, and they don't always go shopping for them in the right places," she added.

Used-car dealers tend to cluster around the gates of military installations, Petraeus explained, and have been known to sell service members "clunkers" at inflated prices

and with high finance charges.

Troops also are subject to "spot financing," she added.

They drive away with a promise of certain financing and later are told the financing fell through and they'll have to pay more.

"Although the [bureau] will only have supervisory authority over the auto dealers who write their own loans, ... the Federal Trade Commission and the Federal Reserve are required by [law] to coordinate with us on military auto issues, and we have already started to do that," she said.

Military spouses have a distinct challenge with employment, Petraeus noted. Spouses in careers that require a professional license or certification run into issues when trying to renew their license at a new duty station. It's difficult and expensive, she acknowledged.

Additionally, self-employed spouses find it hard to maintain a client base when relocating frequently, and spouses in rural areas are faced with a lack of available jobs.

"Those are problems I may not be able to solve, but I can certainly raise awareness about them as I work with federal and state agencies," Petraeus said. The Defense Department, she added, also is working to improve spouse employment opportunities through its Military Spouse Employment Program. Finally, indebtedness remains an ongoing issue for military members, she said. Service members often enter the military with debt, Petraeus noted.

On a visit to Texas, she said, she was told the average Air Force recruit arrives for basic training with more than \$10,000 in debt.

"Once in the service, military personnel don't make a whole

Obama announced Nov. 7 for employers who hire post-9/11 veterans and wounded warriors, as well as enhanced career counseling services for veterans.

She joined Shinseki and Mills in encouraging Congress to pass legislation to provide more opportunities for veterans.

Solis encouraged veterans to visit the Department of Labor website to download a new Veteran Gold Card that entitles them to six months of personalized case management, assessments and counseling services at roughly 3,000 One-Stop Career Centers nationwide.

She also encouraged veterans to take advantage of the new My Next Move for Veterans online tool to identify civilian careers that correlate with their skills and interests.

The Department of Labor recognizes the service and sacrifice of the nation's veterans and strives to honor those contributions every day, Solis said.

"We put the full weight of the department behind programs that ensure rewarding careers are waiting for them when they come home," she said.

Meanwhile, Mills noted increased efforts within the Small Business Administration to help veterans start their own businesses. SBA has doubled its loans to veterans and disabled veterans since 2009, she said.

Last year, Mills said, the SBA approved 4,300 veterans loans amounting to \$1.5 billion. Veterans have a lot to bring to the workplace, she said, noting their skills "translate very much into entrepreneurship."

While these and other programs assist the nation's veterans, Shinseki said, they also help the country by strengthening its economy. "The American economy needs veterans," he said. "They make exceptional employees".

Air Force Mortuary Sent Troop Remains To Landfill

By Elisabeth Bumiller New York Times



WASHINGTON — November 10, 2011 The mortuary at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware disposed of some body parts of the nation's war dead from 2003 to 2008 by burning them and dumping the ashes in a Virginia landfill, an Air Force official said on Wednesday. The practice has since been stopped and the ashes are now put in urns and buried at sea.

The practice, which was limited to body parts that families of the war dead did not want to receive, was first reported by The Washington Post. The Air Force official said that body parts sometimes would come into the mortuary after families had already buried the remains of their loved ones and had instructed the military to dispose of the additional parts. But the families were not informed of the way the military was disposing of them.

The Air Force official said that the body parts were first cremated and then given to a private contractor, who incinerated them before putting them in the landfill. The Air Force official said he did not know why it was necessary to first cremate the parts and then incinerate them.

The disclosure follows an Air Force announcement on Tuesday that three top officials at the Dover Port Mortuary, the largest in the nation and the main entry point for the nation's war dead, knew about lost body parts at the mortuary but did nothing to fix a sloppy system. The three officials were responsible for "gross mismanagement" at the facility, the Air Force said, and were disciplined but not fired.

Also Wednesday, a Pentagon official said that Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta was holding out the possibility of further action against the officials if an outside review found more problems at the mortuary, which has been a hectic place as the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan

have sent the bodies of thousands of American men and women to Dover.

"The door is open, depending on what's found," a Defense official said.

Col. Robert H. Edmondson, the former commander of the Air Force Mortuary Affairs Operations Center, who left his position as part of a regular rotation last year, received a letter of reprimand, effectively ending any further promotions. Trevor Dean, Colonel Edmondson's former deputy, and Quinton R. Keel, the former mortuary director, both civilians, were demoted within the last two months and moved to lesser jobs at Dover, although not in the mortuary.

A separate investigation by the Office of Special Counsel, an agency that handles whistle-blower complaints within the government, said that Mr. Dean and Mr. Keel should have been fired.

However, the Air Force official said on Wednesday that Mr. Dean was one of those responsible for changing the mortuary's practice of dumping the ashes of body parts in the landfill and instead moved to have them buried in urns at sea. The Air Force said that Colonel Edmondson, Mr. Dean and Mr. Keel were unavailable for comment.

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